

Remarks/Arguments

Objection to the disclosure

The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Paragraph 2 on page 8, paragraph 2 on page 9 and paragraph 1 on page 11 has been amended.

The Specification was objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, namely the preamble of claims 1 and 7. The disclosure has been amended as follows:

On page 8, line 17 "first end" has been replaced with -- attachment end--.

On page 8, line 18 "second end" has been replaced with -- insertion end having a transversely placed aperture receptive to the shank of a padlock--. The language is supported by the original claims and is believed to provide clarity by amending the disclosure. No new matter is added.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 1 and 7 were objected stating it was not clear which "cable lock" was being referred to. The applicant has amended the claims using the word "conventional" to define the existing cable lock.

On page 12, line 9, the examiner correctly states that there is no antecedent basis for "said steel plate", the applicant has corrected the claim.

On page 12, line 10-11, the examiner correctly states that there is no antecedent basis for "said end fitting", the applicant has corrected the claim.

On page 13, line 6, the examiner correctly states that there is no antecedent basis for "said end member", the applicant has corrected the claim.

On page 13, line 15, the examiner correctly states that there is no antecedent basis for "said steel plate", the applicant has corrected the claim.

On page 13, line 16-17, the examiner correctly states that there is no antecedent basis for "said end fitting", the applicant has corrected the claim.

On page 13, line 22, the examiner states that there is no antecedent basis for "said swaged fitting". The support for the language is on page 13, line 19.

Objection to the Drawings

Claims 2 and 8 have been amended to cancel the "substantially square" language, thus no drawing correction is deemed necessary. Applicant understands the drawings submitted are informal and, upon receipt of the Notice of Allowance, required to submit formal drawings.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as being unpatentable over Sager et al in view of Singer et al or Bennett. The amendment to the claims positively recites the cable lock and padlock. The cited references do not teach individual or in combination the use of a separate flexible cable for use in securing the primary locking mechanism, further allowing the cable lock to be used in its conventional manner.

U.S. Patent 1,274,203 issued to Sager is an article securing means which requires the locking member plate 3 to be screwed to the article to be secured. If the member plate 3 is not screwed or otherwise permanently fastened to the article, the device would not work. The Applicant's device is designed to attach to a article without permanent fastening, the applicant's device does not use any type of screw or the like permanent fastener.

U.S. Patent 3,859,826 issued to Singer discloses a device for securing office equipment. The Singer device also requires

that the locking mechanism is screwed to a fixed object. The Singer device employs a speciality lock to engage the cable used to secure to the fixed object. The Applicant's device is designed to attach to a article without permanent fastening, the applicant's device does not use any type of screw or the like permanent fastener.

U.S. Patent 4,570,465 issued to Bennett discloses a plural branch locking cable. The Bennett device is also office equipment and requires a means for permanently attaching an end of a flexible cable to the items to be secured. Bennett teaches cutting a hole in the article to be secured (column 4, lines 67-68) or the use of an epoxy to secure an attachment bracket (column 5, lines 1-10).

The Applicant's device is designed to attach to a article without permanent fastening. None of the cited references teach the securement of a device without any type of screw or the like permanent fastener. Items such as scuba tanks do not have provisions for accepting a screw or the like permanent fastener.

U.S. Patent 4,573,584 issued to Otema which discloses a security device for clothing. The Otema device requires the locking plate to be non-releaseable (column 5, lines 1-2) which again is not possible with the items to be secured by the applicant's device.

U.S. Patent 3,101,695 issued to Honeyman discloses a device

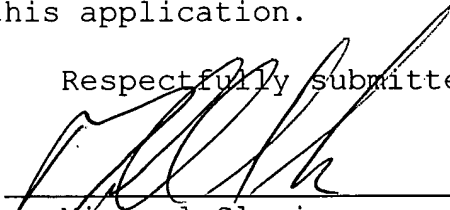
for locking a boat. The Honeymen device is a single cable having no adjustment for the individual items as provided by the applicant's device or the ability to gang lock such as that illustrated in Figure 1 of the application.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks, amendments to the specification and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner will now find the claims of the application allowable. Favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested. Should there be any remaining issues which can be resolved via an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Date: 6/30/04

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Slavin
Registration No. 34,016
McHale & Slavin, P.A.
2855 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
Telephone: (561) 625-6575
Telefax: (561) 625-6572
e-mail: palmbeach@m spatents.com